

Coins

Indonesia, leading off a corps of conservation

By Roger Boye

COINS honoring endangered species of wildlife will be circulating in 24 countries by 1978 as part of an international numismatic wildlife program.

Earlier this month, Indo-

nesia became the first nation to issue the coins. Costa Rica, Tanzania, Nepal, Thailand, and Mauritius are expected to issue theirs on or before next Aug. 1. The remaining 18 nations will issue the coins within the next four years as designs are

drawn and dies prepared. [The United States is not participating in the program.]

The coins will be legal tender in the issuing nations, and will be struck in proof for collectors and in uncirculated condition for collectors and for general circulation.

The 24 participating countries have major conservation problems and need financial help in solving them. Profits from sales of the coins to collectors will go to the participating nations and to the World Wildlife Fund and the International Union

for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The coins, to be issued in higher denominations, will be designed at the British Royal Mint and many will be struck there. [The Royal Mint currently strikes coins for more than 50 nations.] They will be distributed by Spink and Son Ltd., London. In the United States, ordering forms are available from Conservation Coin Collection, 250 Hudson St., New York, N. Y. 10013.

THE BRITISH Royal Mint is finally selling the 1971 British decimal proof set in the United States. That was the year the British government first made decimal coins, ending 1,200 years of a system of pounds, florins, and shillings.

The set, which sells for \$8.95, includes six coins: half-penny, penny, two pence, five pence, 10 pence, and 50 pence. The 50-pence piece has seven sides; the other coins are round.

Proof sets are made for collectors with specially prepared dies and blanks.

The sets can be ordered from the Royal Mint of Great Britain, North American Bureau, P.O. Box 700, Benjamin Franklin Station, Washington, D.C. 20044.



Obverse [top] of all coins in the Indonesian series and three reverse designs.